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Book Reviews.

Eden Lost and Won. By SIR J. WILLIAM DAWSON. Chicago : F. H. Revell Co. 1896. Pp. viii+226. Price \$1.25.

Dr. Dawson again takes up his pen to present the late results of science in their bearing upon the records in the early books of the Hebrew Scriptures, believing that only the student of nature in special aspects "can measure the accordance of these records with physical facts open to observation in relation to the past, present, and future of humanity." He believes further that "enlightened natural science" allied to "intelligent and reverent study of the Bible" will be able to resist successfully the aggressions of agnostic philosophy and destructive criticism, as well as "to yield much new evidence of the beautiful congruity of the Old and New Testaments and of both with nature and human history." We discover thus in the preface a clew to the meaning of the title which must indeed seem, otherwise, rather strange to the ordinary reader; the first part, comprised in seven chapters, about two-thirds of the volume, being devoted exclusively to a confirmation, from historical and scientific data, of the Mosaic authorship of Genesis and Exodus; the second part, of three chapters, alone being covered apparently by the title.

This last work of Dr. Dawson's is not lacking in interest. He verifies the unique description of the geographical Eden in an attractive fashion. His explanation of the marriage of the "daughters of men" and the "sons of God" is simple and perhaps as satisfactory as can be offered. The tracing of the Dispersion from Shinar is careful, but the author, probably wisely, avoids discussion of the philological problems of the Tower of Babel. The "great post-glacial submergence" of the geologist confirms the Noachic deluge story. The author, however, denies universality and regards the event as merely a local submergence of land, yet a fact predicted to an inspired prophet. This portion of the work, intrinsically considered, will perhaps elicit as vigorous criticism as any; the theory, however, has been submitted in earlier writings by the author. In the seven chapters of Part I he has endeavored to throw upon cardinal Pentateuchal

problems the light of the best established results of science. His plea for the historic Moses, and probable Mosaic authorship of the earlier books at least, as based upon the data offered, is sane and worthy. But the reader is compelled to recognize that while the array of facts that make for a confirmation of the traditional view is vigorous, it is unhappily one-sided. One feels that the author is sparring throughout, but with an invisible adversary; the discussion seems to assume critical opposition, but no direct attack is made. What appears is only affirmative support of the generally accepted positions. Such a work can be unmixed satisfaction only for those who desire some buttress for their old faith in the early biblical records, and care to know nothing of later interpretations; to such Part I will prove a genuine pleasure, though even the sympathetic conservative reader will be disposed to feel at times that the author is uneven in his support of a literal interpretation. He sometimes approaches very near the verge of the conservative, while often only the most extreme literalist could follow him.

When the reader passes into the second part, discussing "Man Primeval," "The Fall and Its Consequences," and "The Restoration," a new mode of treatment is encountered. The author has aimed largely in Part I to be practical and scientific, and from the preface one might expect this to be sustained throughout, although, since the second part is made to discuss distinctively theological questions, the thoughtful reader would not expect that historical or geological data would afford much relief. There seems indeed to be an essential incongruity between Parts I and II with reference to the title of the entire work, and the style of treatment, unless, as one is tempted to suppose, from the statement of the preface and the arrangement of material, Dr. Dawson would maintain a necessary connection between an absolute Mosaic authorship of the Edenic narrative and the New Testament story of redemption.

It is doubtful whether different leading features of Part II will obtain ready acquiescence from modern scholars. Dr. Dawson denies the extreme antiquity of man as estimated by scientists of today, and accepts the "ordinarily received data of human chronology." He does not define this phraseology, but one is loath to think that he retains the chronology assigned the earliest human history by the dates now printed with the Authorized Version.

The fall and its consequences, accepted without subtraction from, or addition to, the Genesis story, is presented in its pristine dress,

except that the forbidden fruit was poisonous and deadly, or intoxicating and possessing the power to awaken in the first pair the sense of sexual modesty. The traditional serpent is the active agent of a malignant spirit. The forcible ejection from Paradise, the immortality of the physical human body before the fall, and the curse upon nature, with some amelioration after the deluge, are dwelt upon. The author goes far enough to conjecture that the tree of life may have been a palm, a banyan, or an oak.

Something may surely be said in praise of the work as one for popular reading,—to the student it offers nothing new,—and yet it may be questioned whether it is wise to ignore altogether, even in such a popular discussion, the whole modern critical and naturalistic trend of thought.

E. D. V.

Illustrated Bible Treasury and Combined Concordance. Edited by WILLIAM WRIGHT, D.D. New York: Thomas Nelson & Sons. 1896. 8vo, pp. 350+311. Price \$2.

One of the serious hindrances to accurate knowledge of things about the Bible has been the out-of-date character of the "Helps" which accompany the 'Teachers' Bibles. During the past year the great Bible publishing houses have given attention to the matter, and we have had new "Helps" published. The Oxford Press and the Cambridge Press have each issued "Companions to the Study of the Bible" which leave almost nothing to be desired. And now Nelson & Sons have published their new work, as indicated above. It stands in the same class with the Oxford and Cambridge works, many of the contributors being the most eminent men in the departments which they provide. The majority of the writers are British, but a number of American scholars also have assisted in the preparation of this valuable aid to popular Bible study. There are of course many good illustrations of places, antiquities, and manuscripts. The last half of the volume is a combined Concordance, Dictionary of Proper Names, and Subject Index, including the most important changes of the Revised Version. This is probably the best abridged concordance now to be had. Excellent maps, incorporating the latest information, complete the work. Sunday-school teachers and Bible students generally should no longer be satisfied to get along with the old "Helps." The new ones can be bought for from 75 cents up. And after a while when